

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 7 to 16 are pending in the present application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application Serial No. 09/789,144.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper and cited references.

II. Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 7 to 16 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1 to 18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,656,085. While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate matters, enclosed herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present rejection has been obviated, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

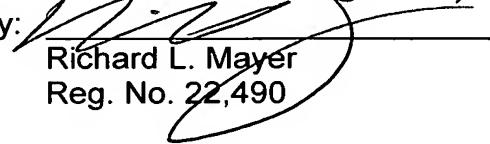
III. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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